



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
www.state.tn.us/humanserv/
CITIZENS PLAZA BUILDING
400 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37248
Telephone 615-313-4700 TTY 1-800-270-1349
Fax 615-741-4165

PHIL
BREDESEN
Governor

VIRGINIA T.
LODGE
Commissioner

TO: All Child Care Agencies Providing Transportation
FROM: Lois Barrett-Luke, Director of Licensing
DATE: August 27, 2007
SUBJECT: Resuming Summer Transportation AND ONGOING SAFETY

Thanks to all of you who have complied with our recent request to voluntarily suspend transportation in vehicles lacking air conditioning, pending cooler outdoor temperatures. We offer special thanks to those of you who suspended transportation in advance of our official request. Based upon severe weather, we may make similar requests in the future. Please anticipate that we will experience future weather crises and begin to develop a plan so that a temporary suspension of transportation will have the smallest possible impact on the children, their families and your business.

When temperatures begin to return to more typical summertime weather, it is critical that you maintain the same level of diligence you practiced prior to this latest weather crisis. It is your professional diligence that has, so far, prevented transportation related tragedies in licensed child care facilities this summer. As temperatures are forecast to return to daytime highs in the 80s and 90s, we ask that you carefully weigh your decisions regarding how, when and which children you will choose to transport.

Transportation is the single most risky activity you undertake each day. We ask that you give serious consideration to the following issues prior to making a determination that you will resume transportation in vehicles without working air conditioning:

- Temperature and Heat Index in Your Region Each Day
- Time of Day: It may be cool in the mornings, but unacceptably warm on the bus in the afternoons.
- Individual Needs of Each Child: Certain medical conditions can worsen rapidly in extreme weather.
- Age of Each Child: Younger children dehydrate more quickly than older children.
- Length of Time on Bus

When you decide to resume transportation, the following guidelines may help to ensure the safety of the children in your care:

- Shorten the length of time on board
- Safely install fans on vehicles without working air conditioning
- Make drinking water and spray mist bottles available on vehicles without working air conditioning

If you need assistance with transportation training or any of the transportation rules please contact your Licensing Evaluator or Supervisor. As always, we will carefully monitor your transportation policies, procedures and practices during our visits. Thank you for your continued diligence in caring for our children.